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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,144	11/03/2005	Giulio Nicita	206851	3687
7590 08/05/2010				
Abelman Frayne & Schwab 666 Third Ave., 10th Floor New York, NY 10017-5612				
EXAMINER				
DORNA, CARRIE R				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3735				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/05/2010		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Interview Summary

**Application No.**

10/523,144

**Applicant(s)**

NICITA, GIULIO

**Examiner**

Carrie Dorna

**Art Unit**

3735

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Carrie Dorna.

(3) J. David Dainow (Applicant's representative).

(2) Charles A. Marmor, II (SPE).

(4) Giulio Nicita (Applicant).

Date of Interview: 02 August 2010.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference

c) ☒ Personal (copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☒ Yes e) ☐ No.

If Yes, brief description: See Continuation Sheet.

Claim(s) discussed: 31, 48, 62 and 63.

Identification of prior art discussed: EP 0774240 (Landgrebe et al.) and US 6436030 (Rehil).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/Carrie Dorna/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3735

/Charles A. Marmor, II/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3735

## Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

### Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

#### Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

#### 37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,  
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

#### Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted, If Yes, brief description: A PowerPoint presentation was given by the applicant discussing the differences in structure between Landgrebe and the instant invention, and how these structural differences correspond to differences in functionality. Applicant also presented a prototype of the inventive sling and demonstrated its position when implanted in a patient's body.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant presented arguments against Landgrebe and Rehil regarding the differences in structure and function of the prior art versus those of the instant invention. Applicant contended that Landgrebe 1) does not comprise front arms that are generally coaxial with the front portion of the central body for attaching to structures lateral to the implant, diverging rear arms, or a cleft and slit in the central body for wrapping around the uterus, 2) is not configured or intended to support the bladder, uterus, and intestine as is the claimed invention, or 3) cannot be implanted via a purely vaginal approach as required by the claimed invention given the structural disparities between Landgrebe and the instant invention. Applicant further contended that one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to Rehil to modify Landgrebe to include a cleft and slit in the central body as Rehil is directed to forming a barrier about a tubular organ for preventing organ ascension, and is not directed to supporting or suspending an organ to prevent organ descension. Applicant's representative proposed amendments to at least claims 31, 48, 62, and 63 in an effort to obviate the prior art of record. Applicant's representative proposed to amend claim 31 to define a width *W* between the "sides" of the "central body", wherein the front and rear arms of the implant are wider than *W*. Furthermore, it was proposed that claim 31 require "a pair of front arms extending symmetrically outward from said front portion transversely of said central vertical axis" and "a pair of rear arms...diverging from each other". The Examiner recommended that the width *W* be specified as a maximum or largest width, and that "generally coaxially" be used in place of "transversely" to further define over the device of Landgrebe. Regarding the method claims 62 and 63, the Examiner recommended that Applicant clarify that the two front arms are stitched or stapled to the right and left tendineous arch. In summary, the Examiner generally finds Applicant's proposed amendments to at least the independent claims likely to overcome the prior art of record, provided Applicant adopt the Examiner's suggestions with respect to the "width *W*", use of the phrase "generally coaxially" to describe the front arms, the parallel nature of the rear arms to the sides of the central body, and specifying that the two front arms are attached respectively to the right and left tendineous arch. The Examiner recommends that Applicant formally submit the arguments presented in the interview for the record in the formal reply to the outstanding Office action. Applicant is reminded that an updated search will be performed upon submission of formal claim amendments.